

Application No. 10/817,435
Amendment dated August 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An article holding apparatus, comprising:

a compartment including sidewalls and an open upper end;

a resilient biasing member contained within the compartment, the biasing member extends between sidewalls of the compartment such that resilient energy stored within the biasing member holds an article in a fixed orientation between the biasing member and one of the sidewalls, the resilient biasing member is in the form of a hollow teardrop-shape and includes a free first end and a second end from which a connecting leg depends for attachment with the compartment.

2. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the compartment is rectangular and includes first and second lateral sidewalls.

3. (currently amended) The article holding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the biasing member extends between and contacts both the first and second lateral sidewalls, and the biasing member is coupled to the first lateral sidewall and resilient energy stored within the biasing member holds an article in a fixed orientation between the biasing member and the second lateral sidewall.

4. (currently amended) The article holding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~the biasing member is substantially teardrop-shaped and includes a free first end~~ forms a forming the large diameter of the teardrop shape and a second end.

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5. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the second end of the biasing member is secured to the first lateral sidewall adjacent an upper end of the compartment such that the free first end extends across the compartment toward the opposed second lateral sidewall.

6. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the compartment is shaped and dimensioned to sit upon a horizontal support surface.

7. (currently pending) The article holding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the biasing member is substantially teardrop-shaped.

8. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the compartment is composed of plastic.

9. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the biasing member is composed of plastic.

10. (currently amended) An article holding apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of interconnected compartments, each compartment including sidewalls and an open upper end;

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a resilient biasing member contained within each of the compartments, each of the biasing members extends between sidewalls of the compartment such that resilient energy stored within the biasing member holds an article in a fixed orientation between the biasing member and one of the sidewalls, the resilient biasing member is in the form of a hollow teardrop-shape and includes a free first end and a second end from which a connecting leg depends for attachment with the compartment.

11. (currently amended) The article holding apparatus according to claim 10, wherein each of the compartments is rectangular and includes first and second lateral sidewalls.

12. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the biasing member extends between the first and second lateral sidewalls, and the biasing member is coupled to the first lateral sidewall and resilient energy stored within the biasing member holds an article in a fixed orientation between the biasing member and the second lateral sidewall.

13. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the biasing member is substantially teardrop-shaped and includes a free first end forming the large diameter of the teardrop shape and a second end.

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14. (currently amended) The article holding apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the second end of the biasing member is secured to the first lateral sidewall adjacent an upper end of the compartments such that the free first end extends across each of the compartments toward the opposed second lateral sidewall.

15. (currently amended) The article holding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each of the compartments is shaped and dimensioned to sit upon a horizontal support surface.

16. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the biasing member is substantially teardrop-shaped.

17. (currently amended) The article holding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each of the compartments is composed of plastic.

18. (original) The article holding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the biasing member is composed of plastic.

19. (currently amended) An article holding apparatus, comprising:
at least one compartment including sidewalls and an open upper end;
a resilient biasing member contained within the compartment, the biasing member extends between sidewalls of the compartment such that resilient energy stored within the biasing member

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holds an article in a fixed orientation between the biasing member and one of the sidewalls, the resilient biasing member is in the form of a hollow teardrop-shape and includes a free first end and a second end from which a connecting leg depends for attachment with the compartment.

20. (previously presented) The article holding apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said at least one compartment comprises a plurality of interconnected compartments.